



DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

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May 27, 2003

Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
445 12th St., S.W.
Room TW-204B
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Re: Informal Comments, MB Dkt. No. 02-277 /
MM Dkt. No. 01-235; MM Dkt. No. 01-317; MM Dkt. No. 00-244

Dear Ms. Secretary:

The Diocese of Fall River submits the following informal comments pursuant to the above-referenced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released September 23, 2002.

The Diocese of Fall River has long been concerned about the erosion of local news and public affairs programming caused by the FCC's and Congress weakening of broadcast ownership limits, and the FCC's elimination of broadcast rules which formerly had permitted the FCC and the community to monitor broadcasters to help ensure that broadcasters served their community of license with programs which meet community needs and interests.

We urge that the FCC refrain from making changes in the current rules which (a) prohibit cross-ownership of broadcast stations and newspapers in the same community, (b) limit the number of television and radio stations a single entity may own in a single community, (c) set a national ownership cap for television station at an already overly generous 35% of households, and (d) prohibit common ownership of major television networks.

Increased deregulation will result in fewer companies controlling even larger segments of what are still supposed to be "public airwaves."

Sincerely,

John E. Kearns Jr.
Assistant Director of Communications